Introduction to Ceremonies

301A: The Ordeal 101 Final Exam

Overview:

This session provides participants with everything they need to know to start, recruit, train, coach, and advise a ceremonies team. This presentation is intended for both youth and adult Arrowmen that are involved with their lodge’s ceremonies team. Portions of the session that deal with recruiting can apply more generally to lodge leadership. This session applies to requirement 13 of Quality Lodge.

Specific Goals/Objectives Of The Session:

• To give a better understanding of the Pre Ordeal and Ordeal ceremony
• To analyze and discuss Nutiket’s explanation of the ceremonies
• To analyze and discuss the OA handbooks explanation of the ceremonies
• To look at the symbolism in the ceremonies and their importance

Materials And Equipment Required:

For this session, you will need the following:
  The Guide to Inductions
  The Order of the Arrow Handbook
  The Pre-Ordeal and Ordeal Ceremony
  Flipchart/Markers or Chalk/Blackboard
  Overhead projector or Digital projector

Physical Arrangements:

Set the room up in a regular classroom fashion. All participants should be able to see the presenter and the front of the room. Make sure there are no distractions and everyone can hear what’s being said. Care should be taken to ensure everyone has a good view of the overhead projector screen, if one is used.
Type Of Trainer:

Any Arrowman comfortable with their knowledge of the Ordeal ceremony can present this session. It is suggested that a youth Arrowman present the session that is at least a brotherhood member. It is important that the trainer be engaging and conveys the importance of the topics covered to the audience. This will ensure a lively question and answer session at the end as well.

Other Advance Preparation:

Prior to the arrival of the participants, print on the chalkboard or overhead projector:
The session name
Your name
Contact information
Review materials needed for session
Prepare Materials for session
Timeline

Detailed Outline Of Session:

Introduction (5 Minutes)

A. Trainers
B. Topic
C. Participants

Pre-Ordeal (15 Minutes)

I. Ring Setup
   A. Unlit fire lay in the center of the ring
   B. 15 blazes along the path leading to the entrance to the ring
   C. Principals
      1. Mighty Chief, Leader– Allowat Sakima, North point of circle
      3. Guard, Fire Tender – Nutiket – South point of the circle – token: bow wood

II. Symbolism of the Principals
   A. KICHKINET –Leadership
   B. ALLOWAT SAKIMA – Service
   C. NUTIKET – Cheerfulness
   D. METEU – Brotherhood
III. Challenges
   A. Allowat Sakima - spend the day in arduous labor; seek to serve
   B. Meteu – strictly keep a pledge of silence; thoughtful silence helps us make the right choices
   C. Nutiket – eat nothing but the scant food you are given, learning from self denial
   D. Kichkinet - sleep alone, keep the pledge of silence

Ordeal Ceremony (15 Minutes)

I. Differences from Pre-Ordeal
   A. Candidates are less attentive usually, due to the rigors of the ordeal, and have completed the challenges of the ordeal
   B. Fire is burning brightly
   C. Candidates are permitted to enter the inside of the circle by their Guide – Kichkinet
   D. Candidates join the Lodge Circle at the end of the ceremony
   E. Given the obligation
   F. This is the capstone of the whole induction weekend

II. Symbolism
   A. Kichkinet only character that is whole and represents a full person
   B. Left hand on shoulder in front of person
   C. Bound by rope on right wrist
   D. Three obstructions
   E. Obligation preparation
   F. Hailing sign
   G. Place in Circle

Additional Discussions (5 Minutes)

I. Importance of Ceremonies in the Order of the Arrow
   A. Legend
   B. Self Sacrifice of Uncas
   C. Facing Hardship

Summary (5 Minutes)

• Recap of Main Points

Question And Answer (5-10 Minutes)
Evaluations:

To evaluate the effectiveness of this session, ask questions of the audience to see how well they feel they now understand the various points of the Ordeal. It may be desirable to give the group a pre-session self-quiz to see how much they knew beforehand.

Source Material, References & Contacts:

The Pre-Ordeal and Ordeal Ceremony
Guide to Inductions
Order of the Arrow Handbook